Family Engagement and Chronic Absence

Home visits work as first, not last, attendance strategy

PTHV is part of a ground-breaking approach to preventing chronic absence led by nonprofit Attendance Works. Our home visit model is a 1st tier strategy in the AW Toolkit, and a partner in the Attendance Awareness campaign to help educators take preventative, rather than punitive, measures in order to: 1) prevent absences from occurring, 2) organize caring and early outreach to families and students before absences add up, and 3) coordinate supports and services for vulnerable students who miss the most school. View and share info sheet on home visits and attendance.

A couple of weeks ago, PTHV’s trainer Lysette Lemay was one of the guest speakers in the AW webinar “It Takes Two: Adding Early Intervention Strategies to Address Chronic Absence.”

It Takes Two: Adding Early Intervention Strategies (recording)

It Takes Two: Adding Early Intervention Strategies (presentation slides)

Staff News: Lysette Lemay

In 2015, veteran teacher and home visits trainer Lysette Lemay stepped out of her classroom (with the support of SCUSD) into the full-time job as Sacramento Region Coordinator, where she not only grew the local multi-district program but added enormously to PTHV trainings and best practices nationwide. As Ms. Lemay finishes her two-year position with PTHV, we are so grateful for her passionate and thoughtful contributions, and look forward to being in touch as she takes on...
the role of Assistant Principal in Elk Grove, CA. Read Ms. Lemay’s home visit story and her thoughts as she transitions out of this role.

Mass Hub News

May 17: Parent Teacher Home Visits-Massachusetts cosponsored the Community Schools Initiative KickOff event with Boston Teachers Union and other organizations. PTHV endorsed this effort and helped raise awareness about the importance of home visits in servicing the needs of the whole child. See info sheet on PTHV and Community Schools.

May 20th: PTHV joined allied organizations such as the Boston Teachers Union, Jobs with Justice, MA Teachers Association, and AFT-MA for the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance Rally for Public Education. The demonstration called for, among other things, full funding of public education, “less testing, more learning”, ensuring that educators have a full voice at work, and ensuring sanctuary status for the state and its cities and towns.

Download flyer to post, please

Tools

Have you seen the brochure translations of the pthvp.org Toolbox? We now have a Brazilian Portuguese translation, thanks to Framingham School District! The languages were chosen based upon a need survey we did among our Hubs and Projects. If you need a brochure in another language, please contact elaine@pthvp.org.

Calendar

June: Upcoming trainings

Hartford, CT - Info, Intro and Cultural Connections
Sioux City, IO - Intro
St. Paul, MN - Debrief
Bozeman, MT - Intro + Training of Trainers
San Francisco - IEL conference, STEM teacher training
St. Paul, MN - Intro
Elk Grove, CA - Intro
Las Vegas, NV - Intro

For more information, please contact Yesenia Ramirez, Training Coordinator, yesenia@pthvp.org

Support Home Visits!

PTHV is a nonprofit grassroots network that must fundraise its operating budget every year. Like the local home visit projects we help, our network is sustained by collaboration at the grass roots. We are a small organization with a big impact!

Your gift of any amount goes a long way towards helping PTHV say YES to communities that ask us for help in starting and sustaining home visits.

Give securely online
Coming up:

June 2 PTHV presentation to Massachusetts Teachers Association Large Locals Task Force. MTA's Task Force brings together teachers and union leaders within the larger districts represented by MTA including Worcester, Framingham, and Springfield. On the agenda -- testimony by Local Presidents involved in home visits will talk about their experience in championing PTHV.

Also, we have a been accepted to do a featured presentation scheduled at the November joint conference of the MA Association of School Superintendents and the MA Association of School Committees!

Roberta Hantgan, MA Hub Coordinator

From the ED

Hi! I’m delighted to greet you in my new role as Executive Director. While some of you have known me for years, I look forward to meeting many more of you, and to learning more about all the great work that you are doing supporting children, families, and schools across the country. I’d like to share a little of my background here as it is relevant to our work together in the future.

I come from a proud line of courageous mothers who advocated publicly for their children’s rights to a high quality public education. My grandmother successfully argued before the local school board that her children should not be forced to attend the legally-segregated and severely under-resourced “Mexican schools” in Southern California. Years later, my mother served as a parent representative on the district’s school desegregation committee. As a result, I and several other brown children from my community were bussed from our poor barrio school to the white, middle class school across town. As fraught with trauma as these experiences were, I believe that ultimately, they paved the way for my own success in school and beyond.

After attending college and graduate school, I became a community organizer, where I was honored to work alongside so many others to help build more caring and just communities. In fact, I was a community organizer for Sacramento ACT as the home visit “Project” was just beginning. I went on to leadership roles in other nonprofits, including ACT’s parent organization, the PICO National Network, at the state and national levels. Since then, I have maintained a relationship with PTHV as a trainer and consultant, most recently coordinating the development of our first Hubs in five states.

I’m honored to be back at PTHV at this critical time of transition and growth, and look forward to working with you to continue our legacy of family and educator leadership on behalf of all children.

All the best,

Gina Martinez-Keddy

Executive Director
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About PTHV

Parent Teacher Home Visits are a fast, inexpensive and replicable strategy for engaging families, educators and students as a team. Our nonprofit network trains public schoolteachers and staff to make a meaningful relationship with the families of their students, starting with a home visit. In addition to proven increases in attendance and academic scores, these visits build trust, cross-cultural understanding, mutual accountability, more relevant instruction and leadership opportunities for the most important adults in a child's life - the family and the teachers.

Learn more